

Virginia Latino Advisory Board
Friday, May 21, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Webex

In attendance

Last Name	First Name	Present
Leiva	Manuel	
Berry	Paul	X
Kline-Gabel	Karina	X
Gonzales	Melody	X
Barbosa	Cecilia	X
Romero	Carmen	X
Aranda	Edgar	X
Brown	Diana	X
Cabezas	Damien	X
DeSilva	Joshua	X
Espinoza	Juan	X
Pacheco	Aida	X
Patterson	Diana	X
Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria	
Rimola	Sergio	X
Sanchezconcha	Lyons	X
Velasquez	Rodrigo	
Watkins	Walewska	X
Williams	Cecilia	X
Zelaya	Eduardo	X
Guzmán	C. Alexander	X

Approval of March Meeting Minutes

Last Name	First Name	Ay	Nay
Leiva	Manuel		
Berry	Paul	X	
Kline-Gabel	Karina	X	
Gonzales	Melody	X	
Barbosa	Cecilia	X	
Romero	Carmen	X	
Aranda	Edgar	X	
Brown	Diana	X	
Cabezas	Damien	X	
DeSilva	Joshua	X	
Espinoza	Juan	X	
Pacheco	Aida	X	
Patterson	Diana	X	
Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria		
Rimola	Sergio	X	
Sanchezconcha	Lyons	X	
Velasquez	Rodrigo		
Watkins	Walewska	X	
Williams	Cecilia	X	
Zelaya	Eduardo	X	
Guzmán	C. Alexander	X	
		18	0

1:00 p.m. Welcome, Meeting Overview, and Call to Order – Paul Berry, Chair

Approval of March Meeting Minutes – Joshua DeSilva, Secretary

Aida Pacheco motioned to approve the March minutes. Karina Kline-Gabel seconded. Cecilia Barbosa proposed various edits to the Health Committee report and other minor editorial changes. The minutes passed with recommended changes. Votes are above.

Approval of May Meeting Agenda – Joshua DeSilva, Secretary

Lyons Sanchezconcha motioned to approve the May meeting agenda. Juan Espinoza seconded. The meeting agenda was approved.

Last Name	First Name	Ay	Nay
Leiva	Manuel		
Berry	Paul	X	
Kline-Gabel	Karina	X	
Gonzales	Melody	X	
Barbosa	Cecilia	X	
Romero	Carmen	X	
Aranda	Edgar	X	
Brown	Diana	X	
Cabezas	Damien	X	
DeSilva	Joshua	X	
Espinoza	Juan	X	
Pacheco	Aida	X	
Patterson	Diana	X	
Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria		
Rimola	Sergio	X	
Sanchezconcha	Lyons	X	
Velasquez	Rodrigo		
Watkins	Walewska	X	
Williams	Cecilia	X	
Zelaya	Eduardo	X	
Guzmán	C. Alexander	X	
		18	0

1:12 p.m. Public Comment – Joshua DeSilva, Secretary

- **Emma Violand-Sanchez, Chair, Dream Project** Discussed her work with the Dream Project, which works with students with immigration status barriers seeking educational and advocacy opportunities. She also spoke about obstacles Latinx students have in seeking higher education in Virginia. Ms. Violand- Sanchez noted that her organization is seeking a new executive director. She invited VLAB members to serve on the organization's board, to mentor students, or to volunteer with the organization.
- **Dennis Rivet, MD, Virginia Commonwealth University** Discussed FASTEST NIH Stroke Study. Dr. Rivet discussed brain hemorrhages and increased risks that affect the Latinx community. He emphasized that quick intervention is key to mitigating fatality risks. Dr. Rivet shared about situations in which informed consent for treatment in the trial is not needed. Also provided were QR codes in English and Spanish for survey feedback.

1:34 p.m. Chair's Report - Paul Berry, Chair

Virginia Latino Advisory Board

Friday, May 21, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Webex

The Chair decided to forego the report in the interest of time.

1:35 p.m. Board Administration Update - Suzanne Holland, Special Assistant for Advisory Board Administration

Suzanne Holland gave several updates and asked members to take the following actions where appropriate:

- VA receiving \$4.3 billion dollars in American Rescue funding
 - Accelerating broadband expansion
 - Fully fund Rebuild VA
 - Improve funding for public health services
 - Modernize VEC
- \$62.6 million in Virginia LEARNS Education Recovery Grants
 - Funding will support targeted initiatives to address pandemic-related learning loss
- Maternal Health Strategic Plan
 - Recommendations will help Virginia achieve Governor's goal of eliminating racial disparities in infant mortality by 2025
- Next meeting is June 11, 2021
- Committee meetings May 31-June 10
- Health Equity in Action Dashboard: www.vdh.virginia.gov/equit-at-a-glance/
- Timeline for report to Governor Northam: End of June is the target for a first draft of the annual report; August-September: Finalize language in preparation for submission in October/November
- Final year of the Northam administration

1:42 p.m. Hispanic/Latino/Latinx Outreach Update Maribel Castañeda - Director of Appointments and Director of Hispanic/Latino/Latinx Outreach

Maribel Castañeda gave updates on the following issues:

- COVID-19 updates on community vaccination centers
- April 24 Latinx Outreach Summit
- Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations events—legislative update event, Mother's Day event
- May 19—Scholars Latino Initiative career panels event
- May 21—LULAC event-imposter syndrome among Latinas
- Maribel requested that members share updates about events they are organizing that impact the Latinx community
- Governor's Fellows Program-Maribel participated in interview panels; a stipend was added for students to increase access
- March 31-Farmworkers Day proclamation
- April 21-Gov. Northam sent a letter to President Biden advocating for 140,000 essential undocumented workers to gain a pathway to citizenship
- Cannabis related boards need nominations as the boards are initially formed

Virginia Latino Advisory Board

Friday, May 21, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Webex

- LGBTQ+ Advisory Board is also being formed and is seeking nominations

Aida Pacheco thanked Maribel for her work and advocated that the Director of Latinx Outreach position be made permanent in the next administration.

2:00pm Break-10 minutes

The Chair announced that the June Board meeting may take place in Richmond. He encouraged members to look out for email updates about the location and procedures of that meeting.

2:15 p.m. Discussion—Board Initiatives – Delegates Aird, Askew, and Hudson

- **Delegate Aird VA House District 63**, spoke directly to the Housing Committee's proposal on legislative initiatives to address evictions. She noted her policy agenda focuses on equity and serving impoverished communities. Delegate Aird shared that she supports the second alternative proposal and would encourage the committee to make it clear to legislative members that the federal poverty guidelines are well established among housing officials. Delegate Aird also noted disparate impacts on Black and Latinx communities in terms of evictions. She commented on the House resolution naming racism as a public health crisis. The Delegate emphasized a follow up proposal is needed to codify policies to advance solutions to this crisis. She also noted that she was able to pass legislation that requires impact statements on race and ethnicity
- **Delegate Askew, VA House District 85**, noted work with Dr. Underwood's office to create the One Virginia Plan, as well as HB 5098 which creates a hate crime for police stops or calls that target Virginians based on race or ethnicity
- **Delegate Hudson, VA House District 57**, spoke about having over 25 percent of her district below the poverty line and awareness of eviction issues facing her constituents; she noted that support for legislation to address evictions lacks adequate bipartisan support to pass emergency legislation (which requires 80 percent support in the legislature); Delegate Hudson noted her desire to see a right to counsel in civil proceedings added to the Virginia Code

The Chair explained the VLAB report process and timeline and commented on Delegate Aird's resolution on racism as a public health crisis. He noted that a right to counsel recommendation was included in VLAB's 2021 recommendations. Carmen Romero and Waleska Watkins asked for feedback from the legislators on the Housing Committee's memorandum proposal.

2:52 p.m. Administration Update: Secretary of the Commonwealth – Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth

Secretary Thomasson updated the board on several topics:

- Board appointments are currently being made, suggestions from board members are welcome
- Press release on clemency—Gov. Northam has issued more pardons than any previous governors
- AAPI Heritage Month events
- LGBTQ+ Advisory Board
- Board application is being revised in response to feedback from the transgender community

Virginia Latino Advisory Board
Friday, May 21, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Webex

The Chair asked about procedures for transition to a new administration.

3:05 p.m. COVID-19 Vaccination Outreach Update – Traci DeShazor, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth

Deputy Secretary DeShazor updated the board on several topics:

- Vaccination outreach: 41.5 percent of the total population of Virginia has been vaccinated, 65 percent of adults have received at least one dose; Hispanic/Latino community: 12.8 percent of the total vaccinated population identifies as Latinx
- Engagement has included targeted advertising, COVID community ambassador program
- Statewide Day of Action—It's Our Shot, Virginia
 - 3,788 community ambassadors statewide
 - Educate, Vaccinate teams
 - Mobile vaccine clinics targeting minority communities
 - 33 events across the Commonwealth
 - Met with Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights (VACIR) which provided a list of organizations that would be good partners for outreach efforts
- Next steps: moving from statewide to regional/local approach with outreach; transportation support is forthcoming

The Chair mentioned a Kaiser report that includes updated information on Latinx vaccination numbers. Sergio Rimola mentioned that several medical sites are no longer requiring registration for COVID-19 vaccinations. Cecilia Barbosa commented on the opening hours of clinics in Richmond being during work hours and encouraged evening scheduling. She also asked about involvement of Latino faith leaders and engagement with community based organizations. Karina Kline-Gabel asked about particular areas in Virginia that have lower vaccination rates among Latinos. Melody Gonzales provided feedback on a website that needs updating that has been translated into Spanish.

3:40 p.m. Committee Reports

Civic Engagement & Social Justice Committee – Karina Kline-Gabel

Karina described committee work on two minute videos to engage with the community to spread the word about. Secretary Fran Bradford joined the committee to discuss barriers to access to higher education. The committee discussed partnering with the Department of Education to translate slide decks about the G3 program and other initiatives. Planned discussions on making Maribel's position permanent and adding the Virginia Voting Rights Act to the Virginia constitution have been discussed before the June full board meeting. Discussion was had about whether criminal justice issues should be included in the committee's work. Cecilia Barbosa reminded the board that a discussion was had about the possibility of adding another stand alone committee. Joshua DeSilva advocated for including criminal justice in the committee's purview. Melody Gonzales mentioned recent criminal justice concerns that warrant VLAB's attention. The Chair mentioned his reluctance to expand the number of committee's but also noted that immigration issues should also be represented. Aida Pacheco suggested inviting the

Virginia Latino Advisory Board

Friday, May 21, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Webex

Chair of the New Americans Advisory Board to a VLAB meeting and find ways to partner. Civic Engagement and Social Justice was agreed upon as the new committee name.

Education and Career Training – Diana Brown

Committee leadership has transitioned from Melody Gonzales to Diana Brown. The Virginia LEARNS and SOL testing were discussed at the last committee meeting. Changes in access to higher education were discussed in terms of how to spread the word to community members. Federal and state aid forms were discussed. The committee wants to continue to advocate for teacher training and education around high school graduates gaining bilingual skills. The committee is excited about the new U.S. Secretary of Education and is looking for ways to partner with the Department of Education. The committee wants to hear from the Commonwealth Institute, Dr. Underwood and the ESL coordinator of the VDOE in drafting recommendations. Listening sessions with the community are a priority for the committee, as well. Dates for early June have been scheduled. Lyons Sanchezconcha shared about his work on culturally inclusive history curricula with the Virginia Department of Education. The Virginia College Access Network is working on reforming the FAFSA to make it more accessible. Aida Pacheco shared her concerns about the dates for listening sessions being scheduled very soon.

Business – Manuel Leiva

The report was read by Chair Paul Berry. Workers compensation, minimum wage for essential workers, and public-private partnerships were among the committee's priorities.

Health – Cecilia Barbosa

Committee invited Keisha Smith from the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority to speak. Ms. Smith shared about the regional AHEC centers that support training and recruitment of diverse health professionals. The committee was struck by the VHWD's lack of state funding (total funding of the agency is set at \$1 million from the federal government). A recommendation for state funding may come out of the meeting. Two new board seats are coming open on VHWD. Latinx recommendations would help to diversify the board. AHEC scholarships are available for those in health graduate programs. Eva Stitt from DBHDS attended as well. She described behavioral health training for interpreters. Freddy Mejia from the Commonwealth Institute shared with Cecilia that a report from a few years back will be updated. A study on supporting uninsured children was also discussed. The committee discussed public health priorities for the federal COVID-19 relief money the state is slated to receive.

Housing – Carmen Romero

Carmen noted that the Legal Aid Justice Center worked with the committee to discuss the memorandum on eviction support. The Southern Poverty Law Center will be consulted as well. The committee reached out to the Delegates who attended today's meeting. Habitability, the state housing tax credit, and Latinx home ownership are other priorities the committee is pursuing.

Governance -- Aida Pacheco

Virginia Latino Advisory Board**Friday, May 21, 2021****Virtual Meeting via Webex**

Transition to the new administration, board policies and procedures, board evaluations, guidelines for structuring the annual report, orientation for board members and new chairs, and election of new officers were all discussed as priorities for the committee.

4:49 PM New Business

No new business was offered.

5:00 p.m. Closing Remarks and Announcements - Paul Berry, Chair

Paul Berry makes a motion to adjourn. Lyons Sanchezconcha seconds the motion.

Last Name	First Name	Ay	Nay	Abstain
Leiva	Manuel			
Berry	Paul	X		
Kline-Gabel	Karina	X		
Gonzales	Melody	X		
Barbosa	Cecilia	X		
Romero	Carmen	X		
Aranda	Edgar	X		
Brown	Diana	X		
Cabezas	Damien	X		
DeSilva	Joshua	X		
Espinoza	Juan	X		
Pacheco	Aida	X		
Patterson	Diana	X		
Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria			
Rimola	Sergio	X		
Sanchezconcha	Lyons	X		
Velasquez	Rodrigo			
Watkins	Walewska	X		
Williams	Cecilia	X		
Zelaya	Eduardo	X		
Guzmán	C. Alexander	X		
		18	0	0

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 PM